



**City of Modesto**

**CITY PRIDE**

October 2001 **City Wide**

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

**Modesto City Council -- 571-5169**

Mayor Carmen Sabatino

Vice Mayor Tim Fisher      Councilmember Kenni Friedman

Councilmember Bill Conrad      Councilmember Mike Serpa

Councilmember Bruce Frohman      Councilmember Armour Smith



**Use your green yardwaste container for greenery only**



Residents put tree clippings into their green yardwaste container.

When Modesto residents received the green yardwaste containers in 1997, many thought, "Great, an additional container for my trash! I've needed a second container for a long time!"

After four years of use, though, many now know that only plant matter belongs in the green can. Your help is still needed to ensure proper use of the green yardwaste can so that the city may continue to produce high quality compost.

Please place **ONLY** grass, shrub clippings, leaves, brush, and tree clippings in the green can. (For some residents in a pilot

area, food waste can also be included.)

We need to make sure there are **NO** papers, cans, trash, glass, plastics, oil containers, or other waste mixed in with the yard waste. All recyclables should be put in blue bags and placed in your black can along with your garbage.

The city receives more than 30 thousand tons of green waste per year at the composting facility. That's about 150-200 tons per day. The green waste comes from the residential recycling program, large clippings from monthly street collection, and the city's Community

Forestry and Parks divisions.

Only organic material, water and sunshine make the compost. The compost process, which includes grinding, turning, watering, monitoring, settling, testing and screening, takes about five months. One ton of organic matter yields about one yard of compost.

**M o - G r o**  
**M a g i c**, the trade name of the city's **c o - c o m p o s t**

product, is made from composted yard waste and treated biosolids from the city's wastewater treatment plant. This high quality co-compost is available for purchase at Hischer, Scenic and Westurf nurseries. It also can be purchased at the co-composting facility, 7007 Jennings Road, loaded in an open bed pickup or trailer. Hours are Monday through Friday 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$10.75 per yard plus tax.

Compost has many beneficial applications. It can be used to amend soil for lawns, gardens, ornamental plants, trees and

potted plants. A yard of compost can cover up to 300 square feet, one inch thick.

See your local nurseries for ways to use compost to beautify your yard.

**What goes in your green yardwaste container?**

- Grass
  - Shrub clippings
  - Leaves
  - Brush
  - Tree clippings
  - Weeds
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# America Recycles Day is November 15

America Recycles Day is November 15, 2001.

You can celebrate America Recycles Day by selecting your favorite recycling options!

Please help us serve your garbage and recycling needs by answering the following questions about current programs and possible options. When complete, return it with your monthly payment or fill it out electronically on the city's recycling page. Go to [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) and click on "Recycling Program" and "America Recycles Day Survey". Either way, your input is greatly appreciated!

1) Which company provides your garbage service?

- Bertolotti Disposal
- Gilton Solid Waste
- Modesto Disposal/Waste Management
- Don't know

2) Please rate your satisfaction level with your service provider. Circle one.

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10  
Very Dissatisfied                      Satisfied                      Very Satisfied

3) How many cans do you currently have?

- BLACK garbage/recycling
- GREEN yard waste

4) Do you recycle using the blue bag program?

- Yes
- No

5) If yes, what products do you put in the bags?

Circle all that apply.

Aluminum                      Glass                      Plastics  
Bi-Metal                      Paper                      Cardboard  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

6) Do you recycle by selling your materials to a buy-back center?

- Yes
- No

7) If yes, what products do you sell?

Circle all that apply.

Aluminum                      Glass                      Plastics  
Bi-Metal                      Paper                      Cardboard  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

8) Rank the following garbage/recycling scenarios in the order of preference.

(1=most preferred, 3 or 4 = least preferred)

\_\_\_ A) Keep garbage/recycling and green waste programs the same. (No change in the monthly rate)

\_\_\_ B) 3-Can system, Weekly

96-gallon green waste can, 96-gallon recycling can, 38-gallon garbage can. All cans serviced every week. (Estimated \$2.50-\$4.00 monthly rate increase)

\_\_\_ C) 3-Can system, Bi-Weekly

96-gallon green waste can, 96-gallon recycling can, 38-gallon garbage can. Garbage cans serviced every week and green waste and recycling cans serviced every other week. (Estimated \$1.75-\$3.00 monthly rate increase)

\_\_\_ D) Other

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## Garbage collection, office hours adjust for Thanksgiving holiday

Garbage collections will be pushed back by one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday and Friday routes will be serviced Friday and Saturday.

The City of Modesto will close its offices on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

***Please remember that outdoor watering is prohibited daily from Noon to 7:00 p.m. Visit our website at [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) for more water-saving tips.***



David Paladini

## THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

# A Day in the Life of a Modesto Blue Bag

I am sitting on the shelf here at city hall along with my family and friends. We are bundled into rolls for the convenience of Modesto's citizens. Who am I?

I help with recycling. Does that give you a hint? I am a blue bag. Yep, a blue bag.

You might say "What is a blue bag doing writing an article?" Well, I'm doing this to show you what a blue bag's life is like.

It all starts when we get picked up from any number of places such as City Hall at the Mall, the Senior Citizens' Center and any

police area command station. You can also use the blue carry-out bags from local grocery stores.

One day I was taken off my roll and used to line a five-gallon bucket. For the next few days the family filled me up with things like rinsed out milk cartons, papers, cans, bottles, newspapers. Once they accidentally scraped their plates into me, but thankfully they remembered that they aren't supposed to do that. They dug all of it out and put it somewhere else. I, as a blue bag, am to be used only for recyclable things such as plastic bottles, aluminum cans, cardboard, and newspaper.

Then the day came when

I was nice and full. They tied me off and squeezed me to make sure there was almost no air in me, so I wouldn't tear or pop when other trash was piled on top of me. Then they sent their son to throw me into the big black trash can along with the regular trash.

A few days later, I felt a rumble and started to move forward, then the rumbling stopped and I sat a while longer. The next morning I heard a

huge truck coming towards me. I was tipped into the back of a large truck, then I was crushed by a bunch of other bags falling on top of me. We rode most uncomfortably to the transfer station, where we were dumped onto the ground.

As we sat there I looked around and saw many piles of sorted trash lying around. I saw the huge pile of green yard waste, and the pile of combined junk. I even saw the used oil treatment collection tank.

Just then a bunch of men came over and picked up all of us blue bags and took us to the MuRF -- the Material Recovery Facility. To my dismay, they tore us blue bags open and dumped our contents into a pile.

They set us aside and shoveled our recyclable trash

up onto a belt that rose to a platform 25 feet high. The workers sorted through the recyclable trash moving along the belt. Each person was in charge of picking out a different material and tossing them down into the recycle bins below.

The recycled material was bundled, packaged and sold to companies that use it for something else.

The un-recyclable trash that came with me when I

first came to the transfer station was loaded onto trucks and taken to either the landfill or to a plant which burns trash to make energy - - but that's another story.

After I have helped save valuable resources, I join the other blue bags and the other trash on a trip to the Waste-To-Energy Plant to create electricity!

I'm so blue

But I'm glad to do

What I can for you

And you should too!

If you have any questions about what to put into a blue bag, call the Solid Waste Management Office at (209) 577-5494. And remember to recycle!!!!



### Hearing scheduled for storm sewer rate change

The Modesto City Council voted last month to hold a protest hearing on November 27 at 5:15 p.m. to consider an eight percent storm sewer rate increase.

Property owners will receive a protest hearing notice and protest form in the mail this month.

Citizens opposing the rate increase must mail back the protest form, hand deliver it to the City Clerk or submit it prior to the close of the November 27 protest hearing in the Tenth Street Place Joint Chambers, 1010

Tenth Street, Basement Floor.

If less than a majority of property owners send written protests, the city council may call for an election of property owners.

If an election is held, a majority of property owners submitting ballots must approve the rate increase for it to become enacted.

If you would like more information, please call the Engineering and Transportation Department at 571-5149.

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!  
<http://www.modestogov.com>



## Volunteers help prevent pollution

The City of Modesto thanks the many volunteers who distributed pollution prevention door hangers in August & September: Chris Peterson, Diolinda Peterson, Margaret Peterson, Kyle Perry, Sharon Perry, Gil Graciano, Kilian Graciano, Lucas Graciano, Alex Graciano, and Rickey Arzola.

The City of Modesto also thanks the following mem-

bers of the California Conservation Corps for their help in August: Paul Carrillo (director), Brandon Torigian, Mauro Vicuna, Chris Pennington, and Kenneth Roark.

To volunteer, or for further information, please call Cheryl Heller, Storm Drain Stenciling Coordinator, at 577-6257.

## It's Halloween! Keep your ghosts & goblins safe

- Check to see that costumes are flame-retardant and keep them short to prevent trips and falls.
- Try make-up instead of a mask that might obstruct a child's vision.
- Make sure your child wears light colors or reflective tape.
- Children should travel in groups or be accompanied by a parent. Map out a route so you know where they will be if they're on their own.
- Remind children not to enter a stranger's house or car.
- Inspect all candy, fruit or homemade goodies before eating.

For more holiday safety tips, contact the Modesto Police Department at 572-9500.

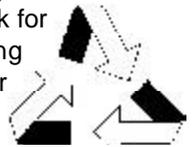
## Recycling gives plastics a new life

Did you know ... plastics can be recycled into a host of new products?

Recycled plastic is all around us in various forms. Many everyday items such as toothbrushes, water and soda bottles, milk jugs, patio chairs, toys, writing pens, park benches, and even clothing are made from recycled plastics!

Other not-so-ordinary items include canoes and kayaks, plastic lattice and lumber, and playground equipment.

The next time you purchase a plastic product, look for the recycling symbol or the phrase, "made from recycled materials."



## GOT TIRES?



The City of Modesto is hosting a **FREE TIRE COLLECTION EVENT**

where residents are invited to drop off waste tires.

**Saturday, November 3, 2001**  
**Beyer High School Parking Lot**  
**8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Eight tires per coupon -- no size limit**  
**One coupon per household.**  
**Tires with or without rims OK**  
**Eight tires per vehicle**

**Limits will be strictly enforced.**  
**NO tires will be accepted without this coupon.**

**This event is for City of Modesto residents only!**  
**Proof of residency is required.**  
**NO BUSINESSES OR DEALERS ALLOWED**

**Questions?**  
**Call the City of Modesto Solid Waste Office at**  
**577-5494**

Funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board



Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE

**MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE**  
**LIMIT 2 FLAT - BAGS PER COUPON**  
**OFFER EXPIRES 10/15/2001**

Available at these local nurseries:

**Westurf**  
 1612 Claus Road

**Scenic Nursery**  
 1313 Scenic Drive